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## 16.Numerical Features of Third Isaiah (56-66)

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## 16. Numerical Features of Third Isaiah (56-66)

The present logotechnical analysis of Third Isaiah is based on the text as it appears in its final organization in Codex L. In line with the restraint I exercised regarding emendations in my investigation of the Psalms, I maintain the present text as it is except for one correction in 60:21b which I deem necessary since 21b clearly misses a word. On the basis of 1 Q Is<sup>a</sup> the problematic word **מִטְעוֹ** should be read **מִטְעַ יְהוָה**, 'planting of YHWH'. This means that the **11** chapters with their **192** Masoretic verses are made up of **2698** not 2697 words. For practical reasons I took the chapter division for granted, not trying to improve on it.

The computer word count will register the number of words per chapter, per verse, before and after the atnach, and more in particular the words attributed to YHWH and the words spoken by the prophet about God. The words attributed to God are shown in **green**. The divine name numbers or their multiples woven into the text are shown in **bold face**.

Isaiah 56	Spoken about God	By God
1 כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה שְׁמִרוּ מִשְׁפָּט וַעֲשׂוּ צְדָקָה כִּי־קְרוֹבָה יְשׁוּעָתִי לָבוֹא וְצַדִּיקְתִּי לְהַגְלוֹתִי:	3	10
2 אֲשֶׁרִי אָנוּשׁ יַעֲשֶׂה־זֹאת וּבֶן־אָדָם יַחְנִיק בָּהּ שְׁמִר שְׁבֹת מִחֻלָּלוֹ וְשִׁמְר יָדוֹ מַעֲשׂוֹת כָּל־רָע: ׀	16	
3 וְאַל־יֹאמַר בֶּן־הַנֶּכֶד הַנִּלְוָה אֶל־יְהוָה לֵאמֹר הִבְדֵּל יְבַדִּילֵנִי יְהוָה מֵעַל עַמּוֹ וְאַל־יֹאמַר חֲסִידִים תָּן אֵנִי עֵץ יָבֵשׁ: ׀	20	
4 כִּי־כֹה אָמַר יְהוָה לְסָרִיסִים אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁמְרוּ אֶת־שַׁבָּתוֹתַי וּבְחֹרוֹ בְּאֶשֶׁר חִפְצָתִי וּמַחְזִיקִים בְּבְרִיתִי:	4	10 +
5 וְנָתַתִּי לָהֶם בְּבִיתִי וּבְחוֹמֹתַי יָד וְשֵׁם טוֹב מִבְּנִים וּמִבָּנוֹת שֵׁם עוֹלָם אֶתֶּן־לּוֹ אֲשֶׁר לֹא יִכְרֹת: ׀		16 = 26
6 וּבְנֵי הַנֶּכֶד הַנִּלְוִים עַל־יְהוָה לִשְׁרָתוֹ וּלְאַהֲבָה אֶת־שֵׁם יְהוָה לַחַיּוֹת לוֹ לַעֲבָדִים כָּל־שְׁמִר שְׁבֹת מִחֻלָּלוֹ וּמַחְזִיקִים בְּבְרִיתִי:		19
7 וְהִבְיֵאוּתִים אֶל־הַיָּד קֹדֶשׁ וְשִׁמְחָתִים בְּבֵית תְּפִלָּתִי עוֹלָתֵיהֶם וּזְבַחֵיהֶם לְרָצוֹן עַל־מִזְבְּחִי כִּי בֵיתִי בֵית־תְּפִלָּה יִקְרָא לְכָל־הָעַמִּים:		19
8 נָאִם אֲדֹנָיִי יְהוָה מִקִּבֶּץ נִדְחֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל עוֹד אֶקְבֹּץ עָלָיו לְנִקְבְּצָיו:	6 1-8 49	4
9 כָּל חַיְתוֹ שָׂדֵי אֲתִיו לֶאֱכֹל כָּל־חַיְתוֹ בַּיָּעַר: ׀	8	
10 צִפִּי עוֹרִים כָּלָם לֹא יָדְעוּ כָּלָם כָּלְבִים אֱלֹמִים לֹא יוֹכְלוּ לִנְבֹּחַ הַזִּים שְׂכָבִים אֲהַבִּי לָנוּם:	15	
11 וְהַכָּלְבִים עַיִן־נֶפֶשׁ לֹא יָדְעוּ שְׁבָעָה וְהַתְּמָה רַעִים לֹא יָדְעוּ הִבִּין כָּלָם לְדַרְכָּם פָּנוּ אִישׁ לְבַצְעוֹ מִקְצָהוּ:	17	
12 אֲתִיו אֶקְחָה־יֵינ וְנִסְבָּאָה שְׂכָר וְהָיָה כְּזֶה יוֹם מִחֹר גְּדוֹל יֵתֶר מְאֹד:	12	
Vv. 1-12 179 words: 101 spoken about God and <b>78 (3x26)</b> by God	9-12 52 (2x26)	<b>78 (3x26)</b>

Isaiah 57	Words spoken about God	Spoken by God
1 הצדיק אֶבֶר ואֵין אִישׁ שֶׁם עַל־לֵב ואנשי־חסד נֶאֱסָפִים בְּאֵין מִבֵּין כִּי־מִפְּנֵי הָרָעָה נֶאֱסַף הַצַּדִּיק:	17	
2 יָבוֹא שְׁלוֹם יִנְחוּ עַל־מִשְׁכְּבוֹתָם הַלֵּךְ נִכְחוּ:	7	8
3 וְאַתֶּם קְרִבּוֹתֶינָה בְּנֵי עֲנָה זָרַע מִנְאֶרַח וּתְזוּנָה:		
4 עַל־מִי תִתְעַנְּנוּ עַל־מִי תִרְחִיבוּ פֶה תִּפְרִיכוּ לְשׁוֹן הֲלוֹא־אַתֶּם יְלְדֵי־פֶשַׁע זָרַע שָׁקֶר:		15
5 הַנְּחָמִים בְּאֵלִים תַּחַת כָּל־עֵץ רַעְנָן שִׁחְטֵי תֵילִידִים בְּנִחָלִים תַּחַת סִעְפֵי הַסְּלָעִים:		12
6 בַּחֲלִי־נַחַל חֲלָקְךָ הֵם הֵם גּוֹרֲלְךָ גַם־לָהֶם שִׁפְכָתָ נֶסֶךְ הַעֲלִית מִנְחָה הַעַל אֱלֹהִי אֲנִיָּהם:		15+
7 עַל הָר־גְּבוּלָה וְנִשְׂא שְׁמָתָ מִשְׁכְּבָךְ גַם־שֵׁם עֲלִית לְזַכַּת זָכַח:		11=26
8 וְאַחֲרֵי הַדִּלְתָּ וְהַמְזוּזָה שְׁמָתָ זָכְרוֹנְךָ כִּי מֵאֲתִי גִלִּית וְתַעֲלִי הִרְחַבְתָּ מִשְׁכְּבָךְ		
וְתַכְרַת־לָךְ מִהֶם אֲהַבְתָּ מִשְׁכְּבָם גֵּר חֲזוּת:		18
9 וְתִשְׁרִי לְמִלְךָ בְּשֵׁמֶן וּתְרַבִּי רִקְתִּיךָ וְתִשְׁלַחִי צִירִיכֶם עַד־מִרְחָק וְתִשְׁפִּילִי עַד־שְׂאוּל:		12
10 בְּרַב דְּרָכֶיךָ יִגְעַת לֹא אָמַרְתָּ נוֹאֵשׁ חֵיטָה יִדְדִי מִצָּאָת עַל־כֵּן לֹא חָלִית:		13
11 וְאַת־מִי דֹאגָת וּתִירָאִי כִּי תִכְוִי וְאוֹתִי לֹא זָכַרְתָּ לֹא־שְׁמָתָ עַל־לִבְךָ		
הֲלֹא אֲנִי מַחֲשֶׂה וּמַעֲלֶם וְאוֹתִי לֹא תִירָאִי:		20
12 אֲנִי אֲנִיד צִדְקָתְךָ וְאַת־מַעֲשֶׂיךָ וְלֹא יוֹעִילוּךָ: 13 בּוֹעֲקֶךָ יִצְיִלְךָ קְבוּצֶיךָ וְאַת־כָּלֶם יִשְׂא־רוּחַ וְקַח־תִּקֵּל וְהַחוּסָה בִּי יִנְחַל־אֶרֶץ וַיִּירַשׁ הָר־קִדְשִׁי:		16
14 וְאָמַר סִלּוֹ סִלּוֹ פְּנוּ דְרָךְ הָרִימוּ מִכְשׁוֹל מִדְרָךְ עַמִּי: ׀	1	8
15 כִּי כֹה אָמַר יְהוָה וְנִשְׂא שִׁכְן עַד וְקָדוֹשׁ שְׁמוֹ מְרוֹם וְקָדוֹשׁ אֲשַׁכֵּן וְאַת־דָּכָא וְשִׁפְל־רוּחַ לְהַחְיֹת רִיחַ שְׁפָלִים וּלְהַחְיֹת לֵב נִדְכָּאִים:	9	
16 כִּי לֹא לְעוֹלָם אֲרִיב וְלֹא לִנְצַח אֶקְצֹוּךָ כִּי־רוּחַ מִלִּפְנֵי יַעֲטוּף וְנִשְׁמוֹת אֲנִי עֹשִׂיתִי:		13
17 בַּעֲזֹן בַּעֲזֹן קִצַּפְתִּי וְאַכְהוּ הַסֵּתֶר וְאַקְצֹוּךָ וַיִּלְךְ שׁוֹכֵב בְּדֶרֶךְ לְבוֹ:		14
18 דְּרָכֶיךָ רִאִיתִי וְאַרְפָּאֵהוּ וְאַנְחֵהוּ וְאַשְׁלֶם נַחֲמִים לוֹ וְלֹאֲבָלָיו:		10+
19 בּוֹרָא נֹב שְׁפָתַיִם שְׁלוֹם שְׁלוֹם לְרַחוּק וּלְקָרוֹב אָמַר יְהוָה וּרְפָאֵתִיו:		8+
20 וְהִרְשָׁעִים כִּיֶּם נִגְרַשׁ כִּי הִשְׁקַט לֹא יוֹכֵל וַיִּגְרְשׁוּ מִיָּמָיו רָפֶשׁ וְטִיט:	2	8=26
21 אֵין שְׁלוֹם אָמַר אֱלֹהֵי לְרִשְׁעִים: ׀	11	
Additionally, 260 (10x26) words: 129 before and 131 after atnach	5	
	52 (2x26)	208 (8x26)

The author/redactor obviously did his utmost to achieve multiples of the divine name number **26** not only in the total number of words, but also in the words spoken about God and those spoken by God.

Isaiah 58		About God	By God
1 קרא בגרון אל־תחשך בשופר הרם קולך והגר לעמי פשעם ולבית יעקב חטאתם:			13+
2 ואותי יום יום ידרשון ודעת דרכי יחפצון כְּגוֹי אֲשֶׁר־צָדָקָה עָשָׂה וּמִשְׁפָּט אֱלֹהֵיו לֹא עָזַב יִשְׁאָלוּנִי מִשְׁפָּטֵי־צָדֶק קִרְבַּת אֱלֹהִים יִחְפָּצוּן:			21=34
3 לָמָּה צַמְנוּ וְלֹא רֵאִיתָ עֵינֵינוּ נִפְשָׁנוּ וְלֹא תִדַּע תָּן בְּיוֹם צַמְכֶם תִּמְצָאוּ־חֶפֶץ וְכָל־עַצְבֵיכֶם תִּנְגְּשׁוּ:			16
4 תָּן לָרִיב וּמִצָּה תִצְוֶמוּ וְלִהְיוֹת בְּאֶנְרְךָ רָשָׁע לֹא־תִצְוֶמוּ כִּי־יִשְׁמַע בְּמִדּוֹם קוֹלְכֶם:			13
5 הֲכִזָּה יִהְיֶה צוֹם אֲבָחֶרְהוּ יוֹם עֲנֹת אָדָם נִפְשׁוֹ הֲלֹכָה כְּאֶנְשׁוֹ רָשָׁע וְשָׁק וְאִפְרָ' יִצְיֵעַ הֲלִזָּה תִקְרָא־צוֹם וְיוֹם רָצוֹן לִיהוָה:			20
6 הֲלוֹא זֶה צוֹם אֲבָחֶרְהוּ פִתְחֵל חֲרָצִינֹת רָשָׁע הִתֵּר אֲגִדּוֹת מוֹטָה וְשַׁלַּח רְצוּצִים חֲפָשִׁים וְכָל־מוֹטָה תִּנְתְּקוּ:			16
7 הֲלוֹא פָרַס לָרֹעַב לֶחֶמֶד וְעֵנִיִּים מְרוּדִים תִּבְיֵא בֵּית כִּי־תִרְאֶה עָרֹם וְכִסְיָתוֹ וּמִבְשָׂרָהּ לֹא תִתְעַלֵּם:			15
8 אֲזִי יִבְקַע כְּשֹׁחַר אוֹרָה וְאֶרְכָּתָהּ מִהֲרָה תִצְמַח וְהִלָּךְ לִפְנֵיךְ צִדְקָה כְּבוֹד וַיהוָה יִאֲסֶפֶה:			13
9 אֲזִי תִקְרָא וַיהוָה יַעֲנֶה תִשְׁמַע וַיֹּאמֶר הִנְנִי אִם־תִּסְיֹר מִתּוֹכָהּ מוֹטָה שְׁלַח אֶצְבָּע וְדַבֵּר־אֲנִי:	14		1
10 וְתִפֹּק לָרֹעַב נִפְשָׁה וְנִפְשׁ נַעֲנֶה תִשְׁבִּיעַ וְזָרַח בַּחֲשֵׁךְ אוֹרָה וְאֶפְלָתָהּ בְּצִהְרִים:	11		
11 וְנִחַךְ יִהְיֶה תְּמִיד וְהִשְׁבִּיעַ בְּצִחְצִחוֹת נִפְשָׁה וְעִצְמָתֶיהָ יִחְלִיץ וְהִיִּיתָ כְּגֵן רִנָּה וּכְמוֹצָא מִים אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִכָּזְבוּ מִיָּמָיו:	17		
12 וּכְגֵן מִמֶּדֶ חֲרָבוֹת עוֹלָם מוֹסְרֵי דוֹר־וְדוֹר תִּקְוָמָם וְקָרָא לָהֶם גִּזְרֵי פָרֶץ מִשְׁבֵּב נְתִיבוֹת לְשִׁבְתָּ:	15		
13 אִם־תָּשִׁיב מִשְׁבֵּת רִגְלֶךָ עֲשׂוֹת חֲפָצֶיךָ בְּיוֹם קִדְשִׁי וְקִרְאתָ לְשִׁבְתָּ עֹנֵג לְקָרוֹשׁ יִהְיֶה מְכַבֵּד וְכִבְדָּתוֹ מַעֲשׂוֹת דְּרָכֶיךָ מִמְצָא חֲפָצָה וְדַבֵּר דְּבָר:	21		
14 אֲזִי תִתְעַנֵּג עַל־יְהוָה וְהִרְכַּבְתִּיךָ עַל־בְּמוֹתַי אֲרִץ וְהִאֲבִילֶיךָ נִחְלַת יַעֲקֹב אֲבִיךָ כִּי פִי יִהְיֶה דִבָּר: ׀	8		8
Additionally, 222 words, with 107 before and 115 after atnach	86 (2x17+26)		136 (8x17)

## Isaiah 59 See my analysis: <http://www.labuschagne.nl/12.isaiah59.pdf>

Because v. 21 is the only verse containing words attributed to God, it is not necessary to display the entire Hebrew text. It suffices to say that it is made up of **26** words of which 22 are spoken by God. The 284 words can be divided into two main sections:

- vv. 1-14 The sins of the people and their confession of guilt **182** (7x26) words;
- vv. 15-21 YHWH acts for the sake of justice and his covenant **102** (6x17) words.

The words spoken by God (v. 21) preludes as a cliffhanger the divine speech in chapter 60.

A cliffhanger is a literary device at the end of a particular section of the text to leave the reader in suspense and anxious not to miss the next episode. As far as I know, the use of this device in biblical literature has not yet been studied, but it would be worthwhile to do so.

A typical example is to be found in Job 3:1, אַחֲרֵי־כֵן פָּתַח אִיּוֹב אֶת־פִּיהוּ וַיְקַלֵּל אֶת־יוֹמוֹ

"After this Job broke his silence and cursed the day of his birth", which is followed in Codex L by a *parashah petuchah* clearly showing that it belongs to the preceding passage and not to what follows as suggested by the chapter division in BHS. This means that 3:2 is the beginning of Job's complaint to God and that 3:1 functions as a cliffhanger at the end of the prologue and anticipates Job's complaint. For the numerical evidence confirming the delimitation of the prologue to the Book of Job as 1:1-3:1, see my study of the framework: <http://www.labuschagne.nl/14.job.framework.pdf>.

In Third Isaiah I discovered no less than six final verses or phrases functioning as a cliffhanger since they all contain an element of suspense and clearly anticipate what follows:

- 57:21, this verse preludes YHWH's judgement of his disobedient people in 58;
- 59:21, the divine speech anticipates the words spoken by God in 60;
- 60:22b, the final colon "*I am the LORD; in its time I will accomplish it quickly!*"
- 63:19b, the concluding words "*O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence!*"
- 64:11, the urgent questions at the end of the prayer "*After all this, will you restrain yourself, O LORD? Will you keep silent, and punish us so severely?*"
- 66:17b, the formula נִאֲמַר יְהוָה at the end is in this case, in my opinion, part and parcel of the words spoken by the prophet about and in behalf of God.

## Isaiah 60

The entire text of Isaiah 60 is phrased as words spoken by God which have been anticipated by the divine speech in the form of a cliffhanger at the end of 59. The numerical evidence strongly suggests that the text divides into three parts with vv. 8-16 at the centre:

vv. 1-7	88 words = 46a + 42b (respectively before and after atnach)
vv. 8-16	<b>119</b> (7x <b>17</b> ) words = <b>68a</b> (4x <b>17</b> ) + <b>51b</b> (3x <b>17</b> )
vv. 17-22	89 words = 53a + 36b.

The **119** words of the nucleus divide into two sections governed by the number **17**:

vv. 8-11	<b>51</b> (3x <b>17</b> ) words
vv. 12-16	<b>68</b> (4x <b>17</b> ) words.

## Isaiah 61

In this case the words spoken by the prophet and by God can easily be distinguished, which enables us at the same time to discover the compositional structure of the text. Like chapter 60, it divides into **three** parts, with the divine speech in vv. 8-9 at the centre:

vv. 1-7	101 words spoken about God: 101 = <b>52a</b> (2x <b>26</b> ) + 49b (7x7)
vv. 8-9	<b>29 words spoken by God:</b> 29 = 14 + 15
vv. 10-11	35 words spoken by the prophet: 30 = 20a + 15b

This means that the prophet uses altogether exactly **136** words (101 + 35 = **136** = 8 x **17**). Moreover, vv. 1-9, the words spoken by the prophet and God taken together, are made up of **130** (5x**26**), while vv. 8-11 have **34** (2x**17**) words before atnach. And finally, vv. 2-3 have **34** (2x**17**) words, with **17** before atnach in v. 3, while vv. 1-3 have **26** words after atnach.

Isaiah 61 is positioned at the centre of the **11** chapters of Third Isaiah (**11** = 5 + **1** + 5). V. 6 is its middle verse (**11** = 5 + **1** + 5). V. 6b is its middle poetic verseline (23 = **11** + 1 + **11**). Its meaningful centre on word level is the last **9** words in v. 6 (165 = **78** + **9** + **78**) [**78** = 3x**26**]: מְשָׁרְתִי אֲלֵהֶינּוּ וְאָמַר לָכֶם חֵיל גּוֹיִם תֹּאכְלוּ וּבִכְבוֹדָם תִּתְיַמְרוּ “You will be called ministers of our God; you will enjoy the wealth of nations and succeed to their riches”. Moreover, most significantly, vv. 6-7 happen to be the mathematical middle of Third Isaiah as a whole in terms of the book’s 192 Masoretic verses: 192 = 95 + **2** + 95.

This reminds us of the very similar situation in the **11** Asaphite Psalms (73-83), where Psalm 78 is positioned at the centre: **11** = 5 + **1** + 5. Additionally, 78:35 constitutes the middle verse of Psalm 78 (**77** = 38 + **1** + 38), while 78:36 happens to be the middle verseline of the Book of Psalms, as indicated by the Masoretes in the margin! Note the crucial role played by the number **11** as ordering principle in both Isaiah 61 and Psalm 78. See my analysis of Psalm 78 <http://www.labuschagne.nl/ps078.pdf>, and especially note 1 in my analysis of Psalm 119.

Isaiah 62	Words spoken by the prophet	Words spoken by God
The words in vv. 1-5 are spoken by the prophet. The words spoken by God are to be found in vv. 6-11, starting in v. 6a without any introductory formula:	74	
6 על־חומתֶיךָ יְרוּשָׁלַם הִפְקִדְתִּי שְׁמָרִים כָּל־הַיּוֹם וְכָל־הַלַּיְלָה תָמִיד לֹא יִחָשׂוּ הַמְזַכְרִים אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי־דָמִי לָכֶם:	6	12
7 וְאֶל־תִּתְּנוּ דָמִי לוֹ עַד־יִכּוֹנֵן וְעַד־יִשְׁעִים אֶת־יְרוּשָׁלַם תְּהַלֵּה בְּאֶרֶץ:	12+	
8 נִשְׁבַּע יְהוָה בִּימִינוֹ וּבִזְרוֹעַ עֹז אִם־אֶתֶּן אֶת־דִּגְלִי עוֹד מֵאֲכָל לֶאֱכִיב וְאִם־יִשְׁתַּחֲבֹד בְּנֵי־נֶכֶד תִּירוּשָׁךְ אֲשֶׁר יִנְעַת בּוֹ:	5=17	15
9 כִּי מֵאֲסָפִיו יֵאכְלֶהוּ וְהִלָּלוּ אֶת־יְהוָה וּמִקְבָּצָיו יִשְׁתַּחֲוּ בַחֲצֹצֹת קִדְשִׁי:		10
10 עֲבְרוּ עֲבְרוּ בְּשַׁעַרִּים פָּנֵי דֶרֶךְ הָעָם סָלוּ סָלוּ תִמְסַלֶּה סָקְלוּ מֵאֲבָן הָרִימוּ נֶס עַל־הָעַמִּים:	15	
11 הִנֵּה יְהוָה הֹשִׁיעַ אֶל־קִצְצֵה הָאָרֶץ אָמְרוּ לְבַת־צִיּוֹן הִנֵּה יִשְׁעֶךָ בָּא הִנֵּה שֹׁכְרוֹ אֵתוּ וּפָעֲלָתוֹ לִפְנֵינוּ:	6	11
12 וְקִרְאוּ לָהֶם עַם־הַקֹּדֶשׁ גְּאוּלֵּי יְהוָה וְלֹד יִקְרָא דְרוּשָׁה עִיר לֹא נִעְזָבָה:	12	
	<b>130 (5x26)</b>	<b>48</b>

Additional observations:

- v. 4 **17** words before atnach
- v. 11 **17** words in total
- vv. 6-12 **104** (4x**26**) with **51** (3x**17**) before atnach
- vv. 1-12 **85** (5x**17**) words after atnach.

## Isaiah 63

In terms of the words attributed to the two speakers the text divides into two parts:

- vv. 1-6      words spoken by God      69
- vv. 7-19    words spoken by the prophet about and to God      170 (10x17).

The total number of words, 239, have **130** (5x26) before atnach.

The **170** words spoken by the prophet about and to God divide into two sections:

- vv. 7-14a      **98** (7x14) words, including the 6 divine words cited in 8a, **52** (2x26) words before atnach, spoken about God;
- vv. 14b-19    **72** (6x12) words, with 36 before and 36 after atnach, addressed directly to God in the form of a prayer.

## Isaiah 64

The entire chapter, with its **11** Masoretic verses and 128 words, is the continuation of the prayer in 63:14b-19, which now amounts to 200 words (72 + 128 = 200). It does not contain words ascribed to God. I maintain the Masoretic layout of the text as well as the 4 words in v. 2b which are considered a gloss by many scholars – W. Beuken, eg., (*Jesaja IIIB*, p. 30), is an exception. Moreover, I see no reason whatsoever to detach 63:19b from chapter 63 and make it the first verse of chapter 64. These words strictly belong to 63 where they function as a cliffhanger at the end to anxiously anticipate what follows in the next chapter.

The logotechnical analysis of Isaiah 64, as it stands, brings the following significant compositional formulas to light:

- vv. 1-3      **33** = 18 + 15
  - vv. 4-7      **51** (3x17) = 24 + 27
  - vv. 8-11    **44** = 26 + 18
  - vv. 1-11    128 = **68** (4x17) + 60.
- 77**

The central section is surrounded by **77** (7x11) words. Compare the structuring role of the number **11** in Isaiah 61 and note also how the central section, God's speech in 61:8-9, is surrounded by the significant number of **136** (8x17) words.

## Isaiah 65

The chapter as a whole contains words spoken by God. The first speech (vv. 1-7) lacks an introductory formula, but in v. 8a the speech is introduced by **כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה**, in v. 13 by **לֵכֵן כֹּה אָמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה**, and in v. 25 the speech is concluded by **אָמַר יְהוָה** (in total 10 words). Therefore, including the 22 words in 15b-16, where the prophet speaks about God in the third person, there are altogether **32** words spoken about God and **329** spoken by God:

- |              |            |  |
|--------------|------------|--|
| - vv. 1-7    | <b>92</b>  | vv. 2-4 <b>34</b> (2x17) = <b>17a</b> + <b>17b</b>                 |
| - vv. 8-10   | <b>39</b>  | v. 8 <b>17</b> words spoken by God                                 |
| - vv. 11-12  | <b>33</b>  | vv. 13-15 <b>34</b> (2x17) words spoken by God                     |
| - vv. 13-15a | <b>34</b>  | vv. 8-16 <b>136</b> (8x17) = <b>85a</b> (5x17) + <b>51b</b> (3x17) |
| - vv. 17-20  | <b>66</b>  | vv. 17-20 <b>34</b> (2x17) words after atnach                      |
| - vv. 21-25  | <b>65</b>  | vv. 21-23 <b>17</b> words before atnach                            |
| - vv. 1-25   | <b>329</b> | vv. 24-25 <b>17</b> words before atnach.                           |



Isaiah 66	Words about God	Spoken by God
<p>Vv. 1-4, divine speech introduced by כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה and specified by the formula נְאֻם־יְהוָה in v. 2a.</p> <p>Vv. 5-9 have words spoken by the prophet about God, in which he quotes 8 words spoken by God (v. 9)</p> <p>Vv. 1-9 have 153 (9x17) words altogether.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>2</p> <p>63</p> <p>68 (4x17)</p>	<p>77</p> <p>8</p> <p>85 (5x17)</p>
<p>10 שְׂמַחוּ אֶת־יְרוּשָׁלַם וְגִילוּ בָּהּ כָּל־אֲהֲבֶיהָ שִׂישׂוּ אֵתָּהּ מְשׁוּשׁ כָּל־הַמְּתַאֲבָלִים עָלֶיהָ: 11 לְמַעַן תִּינָקוּ וּשְׂבַעְתֶּם מִשָּׂדֶה תִּנְחַמֶּיהָ לְמַעַן תִּמְצְאוּ וְהִתְעַנְּגֶתֶם מִזֵּיז כְּבוֹדָהּ: ס 12 כִּי־כֹה אָמַר יְהוָה הִנְנִי נֹטֶה־אֵלַיָּה כְּנֹהֵר שָׁלוֹם וּכְנֹחַל שׁוֹטֵף כְּבוֹד גּוֹיִם וַיִּנְקֶתֶם עַל־צֶדֶד תִּנְשְׂאוּ וְעַל־בְּרָכִים תִּשְׁעֲשְׂעוּ: 13 כְּאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר אָמַן תִּנְחַמְנוּ כֵּן אֲנִכִּי אֲנַחֲמָכֶם וּבִירוּשָׁלַם תִּנְחַמּוּ:</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10</p> <p>4</p> <p>27</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9</p> <p>25</p>
<p>Vv. 10-13 52 (2x26)</p>		
<p>Vv. 14-17 contain words spoken by the prophet about God. Therefore, the two words at the end, נְאֻם־יְהוָה, seem to function as a cliffhanger to anticipate the divine speech in vv. 18-19 which are clearly words spoken by God</p> <p>Vv. 20 -24</p> <p>20 וְהִבִּיאוּ אֶת־כָּל־אֲחֵיכֶם מִכָּל־הַגּוֹיִם מִנְּחָהוּ לַיהוָה בְּסוּסִים וּבְרֶכֶב וּבַצִּבְּרִים וּבַבָּרָדִים וּבַכְּרֹזוֹת עַל הַר קָדְשִׁי יְרוּשָׁלַם אָמַר יְהוָה כֹּאֲשֶׁר יָבִיאוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־הַמִּנְחָה בְּכָל־טָהוֹר בֵּית יְהוָה: 21 וְגַם־מֵהֶם אֶקַּח לַכֹּהֲנִים לְלוֹיִם אָמַר יְהוָה: 22 כִּי כֹאֲשֶׁר הַשָּׁמַיִם הִתְדָּשִׁים וְהָאָרֶץ הִתְדָּשָׁה אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי עֹשֶׂה עֹמְדִים לִפְנֵי נְאֻם־יְהוָה כֵּן יַעֲמִד זֶרְעֲכֶם וְשִׁמְכֶם: 23 וְהָיָה מִדִּי־חֹדֶשׁ בְּחֹדְשׁוֹ וּמִדֵּי שָׁבַת בְּשַׁבְּתוֹ יָבוֹא כָל־בָּשָׂר לְהִשְׁתַּחֲוֹת לִפְנֵי אָמַר יְהוָה: 24 וַיֵּצְאוּ וּרְאוּ בַּבִּגְדֵי הָאֲנָשִׁים הַפְּשָׁעִים בִּי כִּי תוֹלְעֵתָם לֹא תָמוּת וְאֲשֶׁם לֹא תִכָּפֶה וְהָיוּ דֹרְאוֹן לְכָל־בָּשָׂר:</p>	<p>54</p> <p>2</p> <p>2</p> <p>2</p> <p>2</p> <p>2</p> <p>62</p>	<p>0</p> <p>43</p> <p>27</p> <p>5</p> <p>15</p> <p>12</p> <p>17</p> <p>119 (7x17)</p>
<p>Vv. 14-24 altogether 181 words</p>		

Vv. 1-9	153 words	68 (4x17) spoken about God and	85 (5x17) spoken by God
Vv. 10-13	52 words	27 spoken about God	25 spoken by God
Vv. 14-24	181 words	62 spoken about God	119 (7x17) spoken by God
Vv. 1-24	386 words	157 spoken about God	229 spoken by God.



## The Eleven Chapters of Third Isaiah as a Whole

In terms of words the central position of Isaiah 61 with its 165 words is reinforced by being flanked by multiples of **17** words on either side. This is underscored by the fact that the **11** Masoretic verses of Isaiah 61 is preceded by **90** verses in 56-60 and followed by **91** verses in 62-66 (respectively  $12 + 21 + 14 + 21 + 22 = 90$  and  $12 + 19 + 11 + 25 + 24 = 91$ ), a nearly perfect balance pattern:  $90 + 11 + 91 = 192$ .

Chapter 56	179	<div>1241 (73x17)</div>	<div>2533 (149x17) + 165 = 2698</div>
Chapter 57	260		
Chapter 58	222		
Chapter 59	284		
Chapter 60	296		
Chapter 61	165 (15x11) Centre		
Chapter 62	178	<div>1292 (76x17)</div>	
Chapter 63	239		
Chapter 64	128		
Chapter 65	361		
Chapter 66	386		

Here is the division of the text in terms of words spoken about and spoken by God:

		Spoken about God	Spoken by God
Chapter 56	179	101	<b>78 (3x26)</b>
Chapter 57	<b>260 (10x26)</b>	<b>52 (2x26)</b>	<b>208 (8x26)</b>
Chapter 58	222	86	<b>136 (8x17)</b>
Chapter 59	284	262	22
Chapter 60	296	0	296
<b>Chapter 61</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>136 (8x17)</b>	29
Chapter 62	178	<b>130 (5x26)</b>	48
Chapter 63	239	<b>170 (10x17)</b>	69
Chapter 64	128	128	0
Chapter 65	361	32	329
Chapter 66	386	157	229
<b>Total</b>	<b>2698</b>	<b>1254</b>	<b>1444</b>

The logotechnical analysis of Third Isaiah shows that it is from beginning to end a carefully designed numerical composition governed by the divine name numbers **17** and **26**.